

MEXICO

1859–present



Beginning Mexican researchers will also need: *Spanish Letter-Writing Guide* (36245) and *Genealogical Word List: Spanish* (34104).

If your ancestor lived in Mexico between 1859 and the present, follow the steps in this booklet to find the records of his or her family. These instructions will show you which records to search, what to look for, and what tools to use. One piece of information will lead to another until you have identified each family member and filled out a family group record.

1

Find your ancestor's birth or baptism record in civil or church records.

2

Find the birth or baptism records of your ancestor's brothers and sisters in civil and church records.

3

Find the marriage record of your ancestor's parents in civil and church records.

4

Look in the civil and church death records for brothers and sisters not listed in birth and baptism records.



Latter-day Saints: Now see additional instructions for submitting names for temple ordinances.

The steps and tools you will need are described inside. ►

HOW TO BEGIN—PREPARATION

You should have already gathered as much information as possible from your home and family and filled out family group records and a pedigree chart. You should have checked FamilySearch™ as well as other computer files to see if others have researched your Mexican family.

To begin:

A. From your pedigree chart, choose an ancestor who was born in Mexico between 1859 and the present. You must know the birth date and birthplace in order to find your ancestor's family. It is also helpful to know the municipio (a Mexican municipio is the equivalent of a U.S. county) where he or she lived.

B. Write your ancestor's name in the children's section of a new family group record. Read through the instructions in this booklet. Then follow the steps below to find your ancestor's family.

Tips

If you don't know an ancestor's birth date or birthplace, you can:

- Start with a more recent generation. You will learn how to do research, and you will probably discover something you didn't know about your family.
- Find the records for the family in the example given. This will teach you basic research skills before you search for your own family. This is a good class activity.

If you do not know where the birth took place, start from the place where you have some records of him or her.

Calculate an approximate date from other information you know. A birth date can be calculated from a person's age at a known time.

If you don't know the town or municipio where your ancestor was born, see "Tips" on page 8.

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. _____

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. _____ on chart no. _____

Mark boxes when ordinances are completed.

☐ Baptized
☐ Endowed
☐ Sealed to parents
☐ Sealed to spouse
☐ Family Group Record exists for this couple
☐ Children's ordinances completed

1. Marina Salazar
(Name)
When born 23 Nov. 1917
Where Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico
When married _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____
Living

2. Lino Salazar Saens
(Name)
When born About Jan 1867
Where Santiago, Nuevo Leon, Mexico
When married _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

3. _____
(Name)
When born _____
Where _____
When married _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

4. _____
(Name)
When born _____
Where _____
When married _____
Where _____
When died _____
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5. _____
(Name)
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6. _____
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12. _____
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13. _____
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14. _____
(Name)
When born _____
Where _____
When married _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

15. _____
(Name)
When born _____
Where _____
When married _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

16. _____
(Name)
When born _____
Where _____
When married _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

Your name and address _____
Telephone number _____ Date prepared _____

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A. Marina's pedigree chart

Family Group Record

If typing, set spacing at 1 1/2 Page _____ of _____

Husband
(Name) _____ Last name _____
Born (day month year) _____ Place _____ LDS ordinance dates _____ Temple _____
Christened _____ Place _____ Baptized _____
Died _____ Place _____ Endowed _____
Buried _____ Place _____ Sealed to parents _____
Married _____ Place _____ Sealed to spouse _____
Husband's father (given name) _____ Last name _____ Deceased ☐
Husband's mother (given name) _____ Maiden name _____ Deceased ☐
Wife (given name) _____ Maiden name _____ See "Other marriages" ☐

Wife
(Name) _____ Last name _____
Born (day month year) _____ Place _____ LDS ordinance dates _____ Temple _____
Christened _____ Place _____ Baptized _____
Died _____ Place _____ Endowed _____
Buried _____ Place _____ Sealed to parents _____
Married _____ Place _____ Sealed to spouse _____
Wife's father (given name) _____ Last name _____ Deceased ☐
Wife's mother (given name) _____ Maiden name _____ Deceased ☐
Children List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth. _____

1. Marina Salazar
(Name) Lino Last name Salazar See "Other marriages" ☐
Born (day month year) About Jan 1867 Place San Pedro, Santiago, N.L., Mexico Baptized _____
Christened _____ Place _____ Endowed _____
Died _____ Place _____ Sealed to parents _____
Spouse (given name) _____ Last name _____ Sealed to spouse _____
Married _____ Place _____ Sealed to spouse _____

2. _____
(Name) _____ Last name _____ See "Other marriages" ☐
Born (day month year) _____ Place _____ Baptized _____
Christened _____ Place _____ Endowed _____
Died _____ Place _____ Sealed to parents _____
Spouse (given name) _____ Last name _____ Sealed to spouse _____
Married _____ Place _____ Sealed to spouse _____

3. _____
(Name) _____ Last name _____ See "Other marriages" ☐
Born (day month year) _____ Place _____ Baptized _____
Christened _____ Place _____ Endowed _____
Died _____ Place _____ Sealed to parents _____
Spouse (given name) _____ Last name _____ Sealed to spouse _____
Married _____ Place _____ Sealed to spouse _____

Select **only one** of the following options. The option you select applies to all names on this form.

☐ **Option 1—Family File** Send all names to my family file at the _____ Temple.

☐ **Option 2—Temple File** Send all names to any temple, and assign proxies for all approved ordinances.

☐ **Option 3—Ancestral File** Send all names to the computerized Ancestral File for research purposes only, not for ordinances. I am including the required pedigree chart.

Your name _____ Address _____
Phone () _____ Date prepared _____

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B. Marina begins a family group record with Lino Salazar listed as a child.

THE RESEARCH PROCESS

The following pages walk you through the research process. In the case study, Marina is looking for the family of Lino Salazar. She takes her family group records and pedigree chart to a family history center. Here she looks in the

Family History Library Catalog for the records she wants and orders the microfilms she needs. She makes several visits to the center. Follow these same steps to find your family.

THE RESEARCH PROCESS

Case Study: Lino Salazar, born in 1867 in Santiago, Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

Your ancestor: _____, _____, _____, _____, Mexico.

name

birth date

city or town

state

1

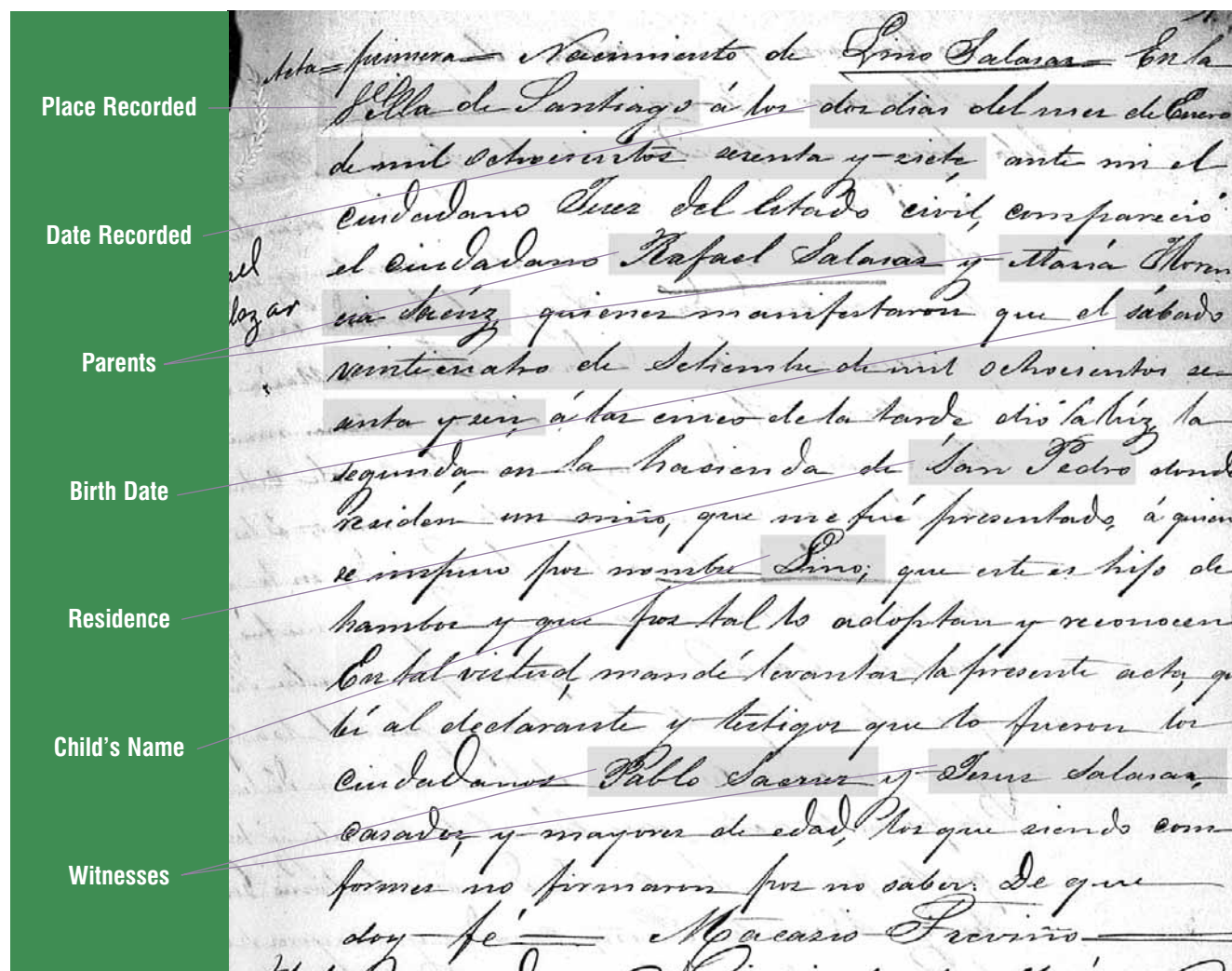
FIND YOUR ANCESTOR'S BIRTH RECORD IN CIVIL OR CHURCH RECORDS. (See "Civil Records: Births [*Nacimientos*]" on page 12 or "Church Records [*Registros Parroquiales*]" on page 14.)

A. At the family history center, Marina searches in the Family History Library Catalog for the town in Mexico where her ancestor was born (Santiago, Nuevo Leon). Then she looks for civil records. (See “Using the Family History Library Catalog” on page 10.)

B. She finds the FHL film 0704953 and orders it. On the film, she finds Lino's birth record. She notices that he was registered in January 1867 but was born

in September 1866. His surnames are listed as Salazar Saens. (See “Naming Customs in Mexico” on page 18.) She photocopies the record for her files.

C. Marina writes on the family group record:
(1) Lino's birth information and other family information on the front and (2) source information (such as place, film and item number, years covered, and page number) on the back.



Civil birth record of Lino Salazar Saens (FHL film 0704953)

2

2

2

4

1

3

4

Family Group Record If typing, set spacing at 1 1/2. Page of

Husband Given name(s) <i>Rafael</i>		Last name <i>Salazar Escamilla</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
Born (day month year) <i>abt 1838</i>	Place	LDS ordinance dates		Temple
Christened	Place	Baptized		
Died	Place	Endowed		
Buried	Place	Sealed to parents		
Married <i>3 Feb 1860</i>	Place <i>Santiago Apostol, Santiago, N.L., Mexico</i>	Sealed to spouse		
Husband's father Given name(s) <i>Casildo</i>	Last name <i>Salazar</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Deceased		
Husband's mother Given name(s) <i>Leocadia</i>	Maiden name <i>Escamilla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Deceased		
Wife Given name(s) <i>Maria Florencia</i>		Last name <i>Saens Marroquin</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
Born (day month year) <i>about 1840</i>	Place	LDS ordinance dates		Temple
Christened	Place	Baptized		
Died	Place	Endowed		
Buried	Place	Sealed to parents		
Wife's father Given name(s) <i>Rafael</i>	Last name <i>Saens</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Deceased		
Wife's mother Given name(s) <i>Marsela</i>	Maiden name <i>Marroquin</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Deceased		
Children List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth.				
1	Sex <i>M</i>	Given name(s) <i>Rafael</i>	Last name <i>Salazar Saens</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
Born (day month year) <i>2 Dic 1860</i>	Place	Baptized		
Christened <i>6 Dic 1860</i>	Place <i>Santiago Apostol, Santiago, N.L., Mexico</i>	Endowed		
Died	Place	Sealed to parents		
Spouse Given name(s)	Last name			
Married	Place	Sealed to spouse		
2	Sex <i>F</i>	Given name(s) <i>Maria Mauricia</i>	Last name <i>Salazar Saens</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
Born (day month year) <i>20 Sep 1865</i>	Place <i>Santiago Apostol, Santiago, N.L., Mexico</i>	Baptized		
Christened	Place	Endowed		
Died <i>29 Sep 1865</i>	Place <i>Santiago Apostol, Santiago, N.L., Mexico</i>	Sealed to parents		
Spouse Given name(s)	Last name			
Married	Place	Sealed to spouse		
3	Sex <i>M</i>	Given name(s) <i>Lino</i>	Last name <i>Salazar Saens</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
Born (day month year) <i>24 Sep 1866</i>	Place <i>San Pedro, Santiago, N.L., Mexico</i>	Baptized		
Christened	Place	Endowed		
Died	Place	Sealed to parents		
Spouse Given name(s)	Last name			
Married	Place	Sealed to spouse		
Select only one of the following options. The option you select applies to all names on this form.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Option 1—Family File Send all names to my family file at the _____ Temple.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Option 2—Temple File Send all names to any temple, and assign proxies for all approved ordinances.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Option 3—Ancestral File Send all names to the computerized Ancestral File for research purposes only, not for ordinances. I am including the required pedigree chart.				
Your name				
Address				
Phone ()		Date prepared		

Write date as: 4 Oct. 1996

Write place as: Tuxtla, Polk, North Carolina, USA or St. Martin, Birmingham, Warwick, Eng.

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Front of family group record

2

FIND THE BIRTH OR BAPTISM RECORDS OF YOUR ANCESTOR'S BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CIVIL AND CHURCH RECORDS.

(See "Civil Records: Births [Nacimientos]" on page 12 or "Church Records [Registros Parroquiales]" on page 14.)

A. Now that Marina knows Lino's birth date, she decides to search both civil birth and church baptism records in the same town for Lino's brothers and sisters. She decides to search 10 years before and after Lino's birth date.

B. Marina continues to search the civil birth records on FHL film 0704953 and finds a sister, Maria del Carmen (born in 1868). Marina then searches the church baptism records on FHL films 0605468 and 0605469. She finds

three more brothers and one sister: Rafael (1860), Donaciano (1869), Jose Silvestre (1870), and Maria Petra (1873). Notice that the children are registered in either the civil or church records but not both.

C. Marina writes on the family group record: (1) the birth information for the brothers and sisters and other family information given and (2) source information (such as place, film and item number, years covered, and page number) on the back.

THE RESEARCH PROCESS

Page of

Husband Given name(s) <i>Rafael</i>		Last name <i>Salazar Escamilla</i>	
Wife Given name(s) <i>Maria Florencia</i>		Maiden name <i>Saens Marroquin</i>	
Children List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth.			LDS ordinance dates
			Temple

2

4 Sex *F* Given name(s) *Maria del Carmen* Last name *Salazar Saens* ☐ See "Other marriages"

Born (day month year) *6 Apr 1868* Place *San Pedro, Santiago, N.L., Mexico* Baptized ☐

Christened ☐ Place ☐ Endowed ☐

Died ☐ Place ☐ Sealed to parents ☐

Spouse Given name(s) Last name

Married ☐ Place Sealed to spouse ☐

2

5 Sex *M* Given name(s) *Donaciano* Last name *Salazar Saens* ☐ See "Other marriages"

Born (day month year) *14 Sep 1869* Place *Santiago Apostol, Santiago, N.L., Mexico* Baptized ☐

Christened ☐ Place ☐ Endowed ☐

Died ☐ Place ☐ Sealed to parents ☐

Spouse Given name(s) Last name

Married ☐ Place Sealed to spouse ☐

2

6 Sex *M* Given name(s) *Jose Silvestre* Last name *Salazar Saens* ☐ See "Other marriages"

Born (day month year) *24 Dic 1870* Place Baptized ☐

Christened ☐ Place *Santiago Apostol, Santiago, N.L., Mexico* Endowed ☐

Died ☐ Place Sealed to parents ☐

Spouse Given name(s) Last name

Married ☐ Place Sealed to spouse ☐

2

7 Sex *F* Given name(s) *Maria Petra* Last name *Salazar Saens* ☐ See "Other marriages"

Born (day month year) *31 Ene 1873* Place Baptized ☐

Christened ☐ Place *Santiago Apostol, Santiago, N.L., Mexico* Endowed ☐

Died ☐ Place Sealed to parents ☐

Spouse Given name(s) Last name

Married ☐ Place Sealed to spouse ☐

Other marriages List other marriages and sealings of the husband, wife, and children on this form. List any necessary explanations.

Sources of information Add further information on attached sheets as necessary.

Birth records for Lino & Maria del Carmen: Registros Civiles de Santiago, N.L., Mexico, FHL film 0704953

Birth records for Rafael, Donaciano, Jose Silvestre, Maria Petra: Registros Parroquiales de Santiago Apostol en Santiago, N.L., Mexico, FHL films 0605468 and 0605469

Marriage record for Rafael Salazar Escamilla and Florencia Saens Marroquin: Registros Parroquiales de Santiago Apostol en Santiago, N.L., Mexico, FHL film 0605477

Death (and birth) record for Maria Mauricia: Registros Parroquiales de Santiago Apostol en Santiago, N.L., Mexico, FHL film 0605484

Note: Please take every reasonable step to see that the information on this form is as accurate and complete as practical. This will help maintain the integrity of Church family history files and reduce duplication of temple ordinance work.

Back of family group record

THE RESEARCH PROCESS

3 FIND THE MARRIAGE RECORD OF YOUR ANCESTOR'S PARENTS IN CIVIL OR CHURCH RECORDS. (See "Civil Records: Marriages [Matrimonios]" on page 13 or "Church Records: Marriages [Matrimonios]" on page 15).

A. Marina looks in the catalog for church marriage records in the town where the oldest child was born. In the church records of Santiago, Nuevo Leon, the marriage records are on FHL film 0605477. She orders the film from her family history center.

B. Marina starts with the date of the first child's birth and searches earlier records until she finds the marriage in 1860. (If she couldn't find it, then she would search

later records. If she couldn't find the marriage in this parish, she would try neighboring parishes or the parishes the parents were originally from.)

C. Marina writes on the family group record: (1) the marriage information and other family information given on the front, and (2) source information (such as place, film and item number, years covered, and page number) on the back.

Residence

Marriage Date

Groom

Groom's Parents

Bride

Bride's Parents

Witnesses

Parish marriage record of Rafael Salazar and Florencia Saens, 3 Feb 1860 (FHL film 0605477)

THE RESEARCH PROCESS

4 (See “Civil Records: Marriages [*Matrimonios*] and Deaths [*Defunciones*]” on page 13 or “Church Records: Deaths [*Defunciones*]” on page 16).

A. Marina notices a gap between the birth of the first child, Rafael (1860), and the birth of Lino (1866). She decides to search the same town's church death records for Lino's brothers and sisters who died before they were registered in the civil birth or church baptism records.

B. Marina looks in the catalog for church death records (defunciones). In the parish of Santiago Apostol, in the state of Nuevo Leon, the death records are on FHL film 0605484. She finds a sister, Maria Mauricia, born in 1865.

who died when nine days old. Marina adds her to the family group record.

C. Marina writes on the family group record:
(1) the birth and death information and other family
information given on the front and (2) source information
(such as place, film and item number, years covered,
and page number) on the back.

D. Marina has the information she needs for this family.

Burial Date	Father	Name	Mother	Where Buried	Age at Death
A. 949.	En el campo santo de esta Parroquia de la Villa de Sanl. en su iglesia de Sanl. de mil ochocientos veinte y cinco y el Presb. Lorenso de 1605. de Leon, cura propio de la misma, di' sepult. eclesiastica, con L. Pedro, ent. menor al cadaver de la pároula esp.ª Francisca de muer- da de nanda, hijo legítimo de Rafael Salazar y de M.ª Flores. Sacro: maris de un dolor. Y pare constancia lo firmo Lorenzo de Leon				

Church burial record for Maria Mauricia Salazar Saens, 29 Sep 1865 (FHL film 0605484)

Latter-day Saints now have the minimal information required for this family's temple submissions. See additional instructions for submitting names for temple ordinances.

NOW YOU CAN REPEAT STEPS 1 THROUGH 4 TO FIND ANOTHER FAMILY.

Look for the families of your ancestor's parents. Start with a new family group record, and look first for a birth record.

HELPS FOR FINDING RECORDS

Finding Places

UNDERSTANDING PLACE-NAMES

Mexico is divided into 31 states and a federal district. Each state is divided into municipios (the equivalent to a U.S. county) that keep the civil registration records. Each municipio includes several cities, towns, or villages. Church records, which are kept by the priest in a local parish, are usually found in the city, town, or village.

In the Family History Library Catalog, in the Place Search:

- Look for civil records in the municipio.
- Look for Church records in the city, town, or village that kept parish records.

Place Levels (Jurisdictions)

Places are usually written from smallest to largest on a family group record:

Punta Chueca,	Sonora,	México
(City or town)	(State)	(Country)

The town Punta Chueca belongs to the municipio of Hermosillo. Civil registration records are in the municipio. Do not write the municipio on the family group record.

If you want to include the name of the parish, write it in this way:

San Francisco de Asís,	Patambán,	Michoacán,	México
(Parish)	(City or town)	(State)	(Country)

Parish (Parroquia)

- Parish records are the church records kept by the local priest. Most parish records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog by town or village.
- A parish is usually named for a Catholic saint. Parish records are usually located in the largest town in the parish jurisdiction.

City, Town, or Village (Ciudad)

- To find most church records, look for the city, town, or village that has the parish records.

Municipio

- Look for civil records in the municipio (the equivalent of a U.S. county) that includes the town.

Tips

To find a municipio, you should know the town and state. Then search one of the following:

- A gazetteer that lists cities and municipios by state.
- An atlas. Look for the largest city in the area, which is usually the seat of the municipio.

To find your ancestor's parish, see the following:

- A Catholic church directory. This lists the dioceses with their parishes, so you can easily determine all nearby parishes. It may also provide historical information about each parish and addresses for parishes, the diocese headquarters, and the diocese archives, where additional records may be kept. See *Directorio Eclesiástico de Toda la República Mexicana* (Directory of the Roman Catholic Church throughout the Republic of Mexico), 1995. (FHL book 972 K24i) (Internet site: www.cem.org.mx)
- In the Family History Library Catalog, look under the town or city to find the parish records. Or do an author search, using the parish name as the author.
- If the village does not have a parish, look on a map for the nearest large town that has one.
- Internet site: www.cem.org.mx (in Spanish). You can also search the Internet for Mexican parishes.

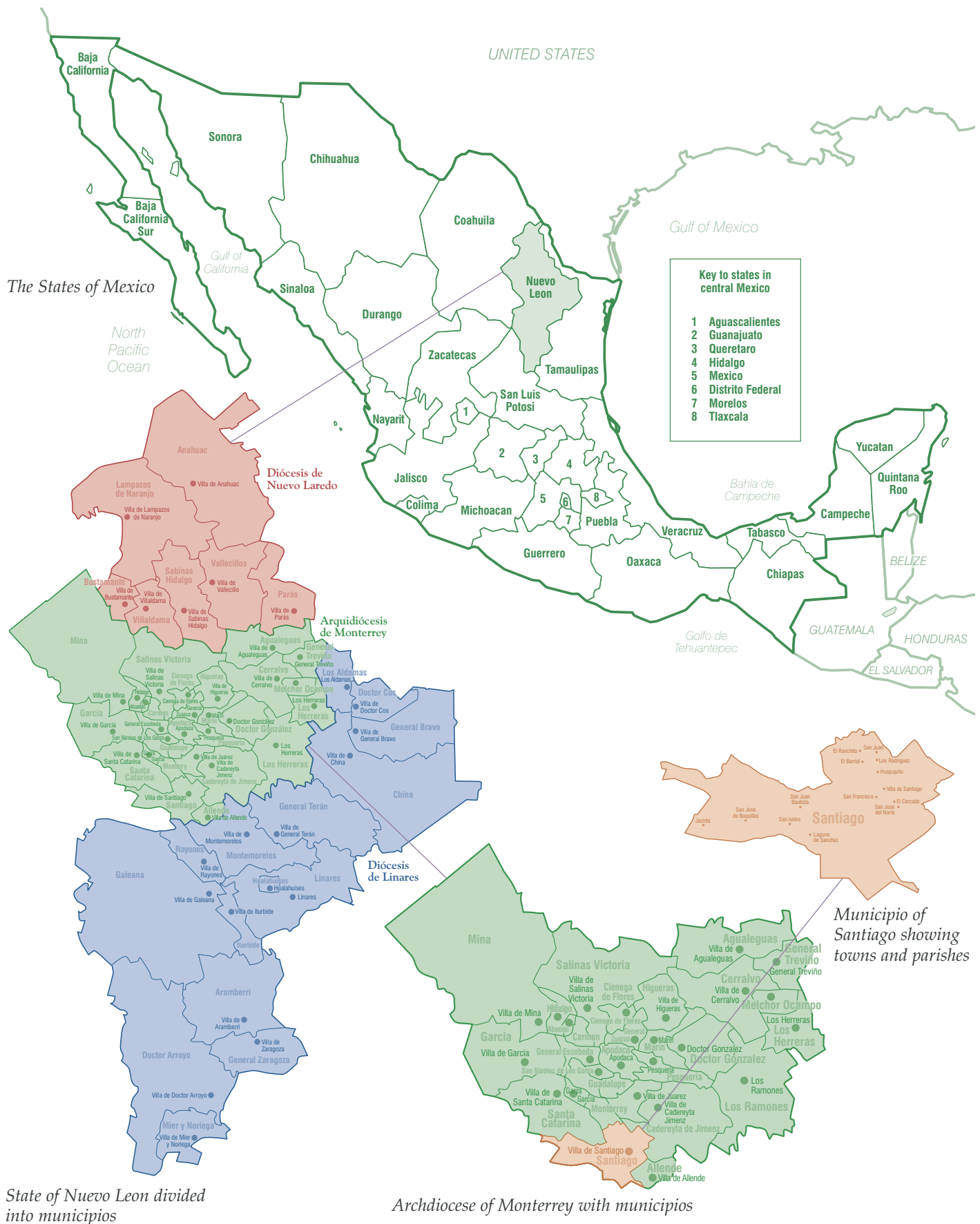
To find place-names as they are currently listed in the Family History Library Catalog, see *XI Censo General de Población y Vivienda, 1990* (11th General Census of Population and Residences, 1990). FHL book 972 X22m; FHL CD no. 28.

To find old place-names and boundaries that have changed or no longer exist, see an old gazetteer, such as Antonio García-Cubas, *Diccionario Geográfico, Histórico y Biográfico de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos* (Geographical, Historical and Biographical Dictionary of the United States of Mexico), 1888–1891, 5 vols. FHL book 972 E5g; microfilm numbers 1102587–88. (Internet site: http://biblio2.colmex.mx/bibdig/dicc_cubas/base3.htm)

- To see a list of 63,300 places in Mexico, with latitude and longitude information, go to: <http://www.fallingrain.com/world/MX/>

HELPS FOR FINDING RECORDS

Map of Mexico with States



HELPS FOR FINDING RECORDS

Using the Family History Library Catalog • Using Microfilm

USING THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

Use the Family History Library Catalog to find any record available from the Family History Library. In the catalog, you can find the call numbers for records you need to order. The catalog is available on the Internet at www.familysearch.org and at family history centers.

To find information in the Internet catalog, click **Library**, and then click **Family History Library Catalog**.

1. Click **Place Search**.

You will see:

Place

Part of (optional)

2. For the "Place," type: **the name of the town or city**

3. For "Part of," type: **Mexico**

4. Then find a topic, such as: **Civil Records** or **Church Records**.

5. Click the title you want.

6. Click **View Film Notes**.

7. Look for the kind of records you want, such as *Nacimientos* (births), for the years you want. Write down the FHL (Family History Library) film number.

For more help, see *Using the Family History Library Catalog* (30966).

In the fiche version of the Family History Library Catalog, the largest jurisdiction is listed first. Look first for the country (Mexico), then the state, and then the municipio for civil registration records or the city for church records.

Tips

To find places in the Family History Library Catalog:

- Use the place search to find Mexican church and civil records.
- To find Mexican church records, look in the city where the parish is located.
- To find Mexican civil records, look in the municipio seat.
- If no records are listed when you type in the place, look for spelling variations of the place-name.
- When typing a place-name in the catalog, ignore diacritics (accent marks). For example, Acuña could be written as Acuna.

USING MICROFILM

At this time, most of the Family History Library's records are on microfilm. Family history center staff can help you use a microfilm reader.

Tips

When using the microfilm:

- Ask family history center staff to help you.
- Make sure the years on the title page are the years you need. Three or four separate books (items) may be on a single microfilm. If the first title page doesn't cover the years you want, quickly spin through the film to the next black space. Then look for the next title page and the years covered.
- For each item or book on a film, look for a title page and an ending page.

The beginning

 FILMADO POR LA SOCIEDAD GENEALOGICA EN MEXICO		LOCALIDAD QUE CUBRE EL REGISTRO SANTIAGO APOSTOL EN VILLA DE SANTIAGO N. LEON MEX.	
FOTOGRAFO JOSE L VALDEZ	REDUCCION (X) 13	TITULO DEL REGISTRO INDICE BAUTISMOS	
FECHA DE FILMACION 3 ABL 1991	EXPOSICION 28	ITEM 3	
NUMERO DE EMULSION 14390117	NUMERO DE CAMARA E 2700		
NUMERO DEL PROYECTO MEXC - 2 032	NUMERO DEL ROLLO 39		

This title page shows the beginning of the index of baptism records for the parish of Santiago Apostol in the Villa de Santiago, Nuevo Leon, Mexico.

The end

FIN		LOCALIDAD QUE CUBRE EL REGISTRO SANTIAGO APOSTOL EN VILLA DE SANTIAGO N. LEON MEX.	
		TITULO DEL REGISTRO INDICE BAUTISMOS	
		ITEM 3	
NUMERO DEL PROYECTO MEXC - 2 032		NUMERO DEL ROLLO 39	

This page indicates the end of the index of baptism records.

CIVIL RECORDS *(REGISTRO CIVIL)*

1859–present

Use Civil Records To:

- Find birth, marriage, and death information for persons who lived in Mexico.
- Verify the place of residence of an ancestor.
- Verify family information.

Civil registration records are an excellent source of names, dates, and vital events and cover a large percentage of the population, but they are not complete. Although civil registration was required in 1859, people did not always comply, and the law was not strictly enforced until 1867. In the same family, some children's births are in the civil records, while other children may be only in church baptism records. The same applies to marriage and death records.

1859 The civil registration law was passed, and standardized forms were used to record vital record information.

1867 Civil registration was strongly enforced.

1917 Laws of separation of state and church were passed. Couples had to be married by the state after this date.

Tips

When searching civil registration records:

- To find all family members, search church records also because civil registration is not complete.
- Look for corrections or additions added as notes in the margins.
- If you do not find what you are looking for, search nearby cities.
- Write down the names of witnesses at the registration or event. These may be relatives, friends, or important members of the community. Their names may lead to other family members.
- If a parent appears in the record to have children with another spouse, look for death records of the first spouse.

CIVIL RECORDS: BIRTHS (NACIMIENTOS)

1859–present

BIRTH RECORDS (NACIMIENTOS)

Content:

- Date and time of the birth.
- Names of the child and parents.
- Birthplace, which may be different from where the birth was registered.
- Address of the house or hospital where the birth took place.
- May include parents' ages, birthplaces, residences, marital status, and professions; the number of other children born to the mother; and the grandparents' information.
- Names of witnesses.

Tips

In birth records:

- Look for most children to be registered within 6 months of their birth.

Searching Civil Birth Records

Before searching, you must know:

- Your ancestor's name.
- The approximate birth date.
- The city and municipio of birth or residence.

Located at:

- Family History Library or family history centers.
- Mexican State and Municipal Archives.

Family History Library Catalog:

Place Search:

Place

Part of

Topics to choose: Civil Records

Search by:

1. Date of birth (usually in order from earliest to most recent).
2. Name of ancestor.

In the Villa of Santiago on 2 January 1867, before the civil judge came Rafael Salazar and Maria Florencia Saenz, who said that on Saturday, 24 September 1866 at 5 in the afternoon, his wife gave birth at their residence in the hacienda of San Pedro, to a son named Lino, who is their legitimate son. Witnesses were Pablo Saenz and Jesus Salazar.

Where Recorded	Birth Date	Father	Name	Witnesses	Mother	Birthplace
----------------	------------	--------	------	-----------	--------	------------

Acta primera Nacimiento de Lino Salazar en la Villa de Santiago a los doce dias del mes de Enero de mil ochocientos sesenta y siete ante mi el ciudadano Juez del Estado civil comparecio el ciudadano Rafael Salazar y Maria Florencia Saenz quienes manifestaron que el sabado veinticuatro de Setiembre de mil ochocientos sesenta y seis a las cinco de la tarde dio a luz la segunda en la hacienda de San Pedro donde residen un niño, que me fue presentado, a quien se inspiro por nombre Lino; que este es hijo de ambos y que por tal lo adoptan y reconocen. En tal virtud mande levantar la presente acta, que leí al declarante y testigos que lo fueron los ciudadanos Pablo Saenz y Jesus Salazar, casados y mayores de edad, los que siendo conformes no firmaron por no saber. De que

Civil birth record of Lino Salazar Saens, 2 Jan 1867, born 24 Sept 1866 (FHL film 0704953)

CIVIL RECORDS: MARRIAGES (*MATRIMONIOS*) AND DEATHS (*DEFUNCIONES*) 1859–present

MARRIAGE RECORDS (*MATRIMONIOS*)

Content:

- Names of the bride and groom.
- Marriage date.
- Marriage place.
- Ages.
- Birthplaces.
- Occupations.
- Civil status.
- Residence.
- Names of parents and grandparents.
- Names of witnesses.

Tips

In marriage records:

- From 1917 on, see both civil and church records. Because the government decided only state marriages were legal, most couples were married by civil authorities prior to a church wedding. However, some church weddings were accepted by the state.
- Look first in the town where the couple had been living, then in the city where the first child was born, then in surrounding cities.

Searching Civil Marriage Records

Before searching, you must know:

- The names of the bride and groom.
- The approximate marriage date or birth date of the first child.
- The city of residence.

Located at:

- Family History Library or family history centers
- Mexican State and Municipal Archives

Family History Library Catalog:

Place Search:

Place

Part of

Topics to choose: Civil Records

Search by:

1. Date of marriage (usually in order from earliest to most recent).
2. The names of the bride and groom.

DEATH RECORDS (*DEFUNCIONES*)

Content:

- Deceased person's name.
- Date of death.
- Place of death.
- Person's age, or date of birth if a child.
- Place of residence.
- Occupation.
- Name of spouse or parent.
- Cause of death.
- Burial information.
- Name of the informant, who was often a relative.

Tips

In death records:

- Look in the early death records to find people who are not in birth or marriage records.
- Look for a person's birth information and spouse's or parents' names.
- Look for married women under their maiden names.
- Keep in mind that information was given by a relative or friend and may not be accurate.

Searching Civil Death Records

Before searching, you must know:

- The name of the deceased.
- The approximate date of death.
- The town of death.

Located at:

- Family History Library or family history centers
- Mexican State and Municipal Archives

Family History Library Catalog:

Place Search:

Place

Part of

Topics to choose: Civil Records

Search by:

1. Date of death (usually in order from earliest to most recent).
2. Name of deceased.

CHURCH RECORDS (REGISTROS PARROQUIALES)

1530–present

Use Church Records To:

- Find baptism, confirmation, marriage, death, and burial information for persons who lived in Mexico.
- Verify the parish of an ancestor.
- Verify family information.

The majority of Mexicans are Catholic. In 1527, the Roman Catholic Church was established in Mexico.

Parish registers often have information about 2 or 3 generations.

Tips

When searching church records:

- After 1859, search both church and civil records, since information may appear in one and not in the other.
- If your ancestor lived in a small village or ranch without an established parish, see a map or church directory to find a nearby town with the parish records.
- If your ancestor lived in a large city with several parishes, records may be in more than one parish. Search first the parish where your ancestor lived, then search nearby parishes. Families sometimes went to a relative's parish to baptize a child.
- Write down the names of the godparents and witnesses at an event. These are usually relatives.
- For help reading the records, see the *Genealogical Word List: Spanish* (34104). (See [“Where to Order Publications” on page 18.](#))

BAPTISMS (BAUTISMOS)

Content:

- Place and date of baptism.
- Child's names.
- Status of legitimacy.
- Names of parents.
- Names of godparents.

You may also find the child's age or date of birth, racial distinction, and birthplace, along with places of residence of parents, grandparents, and godparents.

Tips

- Most children were baptized within a few days of the birth.

Searching Baptism Records

Before searching, you must know:

- Your ancestor's name.
- The parish and city of residence.
- The approximate baptism date.

Located at:

- Family History Library or family history centers
- Mexican diocese and parish archives

Family History Library Catalog:

Place Search:

Place

Part of

Topics to choose: Church Records

Search by:

1. The baptism date (usually from earliest to most recent).
2. The child's name.

CHURCH RECORDS: MARRIAGES (MATRIMONIOS)

1530–present

MARRIAGES (MATRIMONIOS)

Content:

- Names of the bride and groom.
- Date and place of marriage.
- May also indicate whether the individuals were previously widowed and the name of the deceased spouse.
- Parental permission, if they were minors.
- Names of the witnesses.
- May include ages and residence of the bride and groom, the names and birthplace or residence of parents and grandparents, the dates the marriage banns were announced, and whether or not there was an impediment to marry.

Tips

- To find marriage records, look first in the area where the couple was living, then in the parish where the first child was born, then in nearby parishes or where the parents were born.

Searching Marriage Records

Before searching, you must know:

- The names of the bride and groom.
- The approximate birth date of the first child.
- The parish and city of residence.

Located at:

- Family History Library or family history centers
- Mexican diocese and parish archives

Family History Library Catalog:

Place search:

Place

Part of

Topics to choose: Church Records

Search by:

- The marriage date (usually in order from earliest to most recent).
- The names of the bride and groom.

Marriage Date	Bride's Parents	Bride	Groom's Parents	Groom	Witnesses	Marriage Place
1860	Rafael Salazar	Florencia Saenz	Rafael Salazar	Rafael Salazar	Ignacio Escamilla, Jose Maria Cordena	In the parish of the Villa of Santiago, on 3 February 1860, after the publishing of the marriage banns and other documents, a dispensation was granted for the relationship of 3rd and 4th cousins. I, the priest, married Rafael Salazar, single, native of this parish, legitimate son of Casildo Salazar and Leocadia Escamilla, to Florencia Saenz, also native of this parish, daughter of Rafael Saenz and Marsela Marroquin. Witnesses were Ignacio Escamilla and Jose Maria Cordena.

Parish Marriage Record of Rafael Salazar and Florencia Saenz, 3 Feb 1860 (FHL film 0605477)

CHURCH RECORDS: DEATHS

(DEFUNCIONES) 1530–present

DEATHS (DEFUNCIONES)

Content:

- Deceased person's name.
- Date and place of burial or death.
- Age.
- Place of residence.
- Marital status.
- Cause of death.
- Name of surviving spouse.
- Occasionally, it is noted if the person had a will.
- If a minor, the date and place of birth and parents' names.

Tips

- When searching burial records, look for married women to be listed by their maiden names.

Searching Burial Records

Before searching, you must know:

- The name of the deceased.
- The approximate date of burial.
- The place of burial.
- The parish and city of residence.

Located at:

- Family History Library or family history centers
- Mexican diocese and parish archives

Family History Library Catalog:

Place search:

Place

Part of

Topics to choose: Church Records

Search by:

1. The date (usually in order from earliest to most recent).
2. Name of the deceased.

Burial Date	Father	Name	Mother	Where Buried	Age at Death
29 Sept 1865	Rafael Salazar	Maria Mauricia	Florencia Saenz	Sancti Spiritus	9 days old

In the cemetery of the parish of Villa de Santiago on 29 September 1865, I, [priest's name, office, and jurisdiction] buried the body of a child, Maria Mauricia, nine days old, legitimate daughter of Rafael Salazar and Maria Florencia Saenz. She died of pain.

Burial record of Maria Mauricia Salazar Saens, 29 Sept 1865 (FHL film 0605484)

ADDITIONAL HELPS

Reading Spanish Script • Summary

READING SPANISH SCRIPT

Reading the old-style Spanish script is usually more difficult than the modern Spanish script. Although it may seem overwhelming at first, you will find that although each scribe used a slight variation of the old-style script, they were quite consistent in their writing. With practice, reading the records will become much easier.

You will also find that after learning the most common given names and a few common terms, you will be able to read most of the documents you encounter.

Tips

- For help reading Spanish and understanding handwriting, see the *Spanish Word List*. (See “Where to Order Publications” on page 18.)
- For help reading old script, see *Spanish Handwriting* (FHL fiche 6001840, fiche no. 1).
- Practice writing the names of your ancestors in the handwriting style shown in the above publications. This will help you learn to read old Spanish records much faster.

The Spanish alphabet has four letters not found in English (ch, ll, ñ, rr). These are considered separate letters from c, l, n, and r. They appear in alphabetical order as follows:

A, B, C, CH, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, LL, M, N, Ñ, O, P, Q, R, RR, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

SUMMARY: FINDING A MEXICAN FAMILY

(For detailed steps, see “The Research Process” on pages 2–7.)

1. Find your ancestor’s birth record in the civil or church records.
 - This verifies what you know.
 - Write down the source information on the back of your photocopy and on the family group record.
2. Find the birth or baptism records for your ancestor’s brothers and sisters in civil and church records.
 - Write the names of all family members found.
 - Write their ages, birthplaces, and any other information given.
 - Estimate the birth dates of the family members from the information given.
 - Write down the source information on the back of your photocopy and on the family group record.
3. Find the marriage record for your ancestor’s parents in civil or church records.
 - Using the birth and baptism dates and places of the children, calculate the marriage date.
 - From the marriage record, write the following information on the family group record: names, ages, marriage date and place, places of residence for bride and groom, names of witnesses, and any other helpful information given.
 - Write down the source information on the back of your photocopy and on the family group record.
4. Look in the civil or church death records for brothers and sisters not listed in birth and baptism records.
 - Look for children who might have died soon after birth and have no baptism or civil record.
 - Write down the source information on the back of your photocopy and on the family group record.

Then follow the same steps to find the families of your ancestor’s parents. Start with a new family group record, and look first for a birth record.

ADDITIONAL HELPS

Naming Customs • Time Line • More Resources

Naming Customs in Mexico

Understanding surnames and given names can help you find and identify your ancestors in the records. The four influences that played a part in the development of Spanish surnames were:

- Patronymics—Based on a parent's name, such as Juan Martínez (Juan son of Martín).
- Occupation—Based on the person's trade, such as José Herrera (José the blacksmith).
- Description or nickname—Based on a unique quality of the person, such as Domingo Calvo (Domingo bald headed).
- Toponymics—Based on a person's residence, such as Domingo del Río (Domingo by the river).

Double and compound surnames are common in the Spanish naming system; a person was known by both his or her paternal and maternal surnames. Knowing both the paternal and maternal surnames can help you extend your pedigree chart.

Example:

Maria Antonia Garza Sanchez

Maria Antonia are the given names.

Garza is the paternal surname.

Sanchez is the maternal surname.

Time Line

- 1518 The first Catholic Mass on Mexican soil was held on the expedition of Juan de Grijalva. Church records were kept from the onset of colonization.
- 1821 Mexico won independence.
- 1824 A constitution was adopted.
- 1857–1860 Reform laws were passed.
- 1859 Standardized forms were used to record vital record information.
- 1867 Civil registration was strongly enforced.
- 1862–1867 The French Intervention occurred.
- 1910 The revolution started.
- 1917 The separation of state and church became official. Couples had to be married by the state after this date.

What's Next?

Research Outline: Mexico (36342) describes strategies and records for more advanced searches.

More about Mexican Research:

- George R. Ryskamp, *Finding Your Hispanic Roots*, 1997 (FHL book 946 D27r).
- George R. Ryskamp, *Tracing Your Hispanic Heritage*, 1984 (FHL book 946 D27r).

Archives and Libraries

Family History Centers

Telephone: 1-800-346-6044

www.familysearch.org

Family History Library

35 North West Temple Street, Room 344

Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3440 USA

Telephone: 1-801-240-2331

www.familysearch.org

Archivo General de la Nación

Eduardo Molina y Albañiles

Col. Penitenciaria Ampliación

Deleg. Venustiano Carranza

C.P. 15350 México, D.F.

www.agn.gob.mx

Where to Order Publications:

- Distribution Center:
Telephone: 1-801-240-3800
- Internet: www.familysearch.org

All Family History Library publications are described in:

Family History Materials List (34083).

[illegible]

[illegible]

PEDIGREE CHART

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. _____

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. _____ on chart no. _____.

Mark boxes when ordinances are completed.

- ☐ B Baptized
☐ E Endowed
☐ SP Sealed to parents
☐ SS Sealed to spouse
☐ F Family Group Record exists for this couple
☐ C Children's ordinances completed

2 (Father)

☐ B ☐ E ☐ SP ☐ SS ☐ F ☐ C

When born
 Where
 When married
 Where
 When died
 Where

1 (Name)

☐ B ☐ E ☐ SP ☐ SS ☐ F ☐ C

When born
 Where
 When married
 Where
 When died
 Where

(Spouse)

☐ B ☐ E ☐ SP ☐ SS

3 (Mother)

☐ B ☐ E ☐ SP ☐ SS

When born
 Where
 When died
 Where

4 (Father of no. 2)

☐ B ☐ E ☐ SP ☐ SS ☐ F ☐ C

When born
 Where
 When married
 Where
 When died
 Where

5 (Mother of no. 2)

☐ B ☐ E ☐ SP ☐ SS

When born
 Where
 When died
 Where

6 (Father of no. 3)

☐ B ☐ E ☐ SP ☐ SS ☐ F ☐ C

When born
 Where
 When married
 Where
 When died
 Where

7 (Mother of no. 3)

☐ B ☐ E ☐ SP ☐ SS

When born
 Where
 When died
 Where

8 (Father of no. 4)

☐ B ☐ E ☐ SP ☐ SS ☐ F ☐ C

Cont. on chart no. _____

When born
 Where
 When married
 When died
 Where

9 (Mother of no. 4)

☐ B ☐ E ☐ SP ☐ SS

Cont. on chart no. _____

When born
 Where
 When died
 Where

10 (Father of no. 5)

☐ B ☐ E ☐ SP ☐ SS ☐ F ☐ C

Cont. on chart no. _____

When born
 Where
 When married
 When died
 Where

11 (Mother of no. 5)

☐ B ☐ E ☐ SP ☐ SS

Cont. on chart no. _____

When born
 Where
 When died
 Where

12 (Father of no. 6)

☐ B ☐ E ☐ SP ☐ SS ☐ F ☐ C

Cont. on chart no. _____

When born
 Where
 When married
 When died
 Where

13 (Mother of no. 6)

☐ B ☐ E ☐ SP ☐ SS

Cont. on chart no. _____

When born
 Where
 When died
 Where

14 (Father of no. 7)

☐ B ☐ E ☐ SP ☐ SS ☐ F ☐ C

Cont. on chart no. _____

When born
 Where
 When married
 When died
 Where

15 (Mother of no. 7)

☐ B ☐ E ☐ SP ☐ SS

Cont. on chart no. _____

When born
 Where
 When died
 Where

Your name and address

Telephone number _____ Date prepared _____

Family Group Record

If typing, set spacing at 1 1/2. Page _____ of _____

Write date as: 4 Oct. 1896

Write place as: Tryon, Polk, North Carolina, USA or
St. Martins, Birmingham, Warwick, Eng.

Husband		Last name		<input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
Given name(s)				
Born (day month year)	Place	LDS ordinance dates	Temple	
Christened	Place	Baptized		
Died	Place	Endowed		
Buried	Place	Sealed to parents		
Married	Place	Sealed to spouse		
Husband's father Given name(s)		Last name		<input type="checkbox"/> Deceased
Husband's mother Given name(s)		Maiden name		<input type="checkbox"/> Deceased
Wife		Maiden name		<input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
Given name(s)				
Born (day month year)	Place	LDS ordinance dates	Temple	
Christened	Place	Baptized		
Died	Place	Endowed		
Buried	Place	Sealed to parents		
Wife's father Given name(s)		Last name		<input type="checkbox"/> Deceased
Wife's mother Given name(s)		Maiden name		<input type="checkbox"/> Deceased
Children		LDS ordinance dates	Temple	
List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth.				
1	Sex	Given name(s)	Last name	
			<input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"	
	Born (day month year)	Place	Baptized	
	Christened	Place	Endowed	
	Died	Place	Sealed to parents	
	Spouse Given name(s)	Last name		
	Married	Place	Sealed to spouse	
2	Sex	Given name(s)	Last name	
			<input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"	
	Born (day month year)	Place	Baptized	
	Christened	Place	Endowed	
	Died	Place	Sealed to parents	
	Spouse Given name(s)	Last name		
	Married	Place	Sealed to spouse	
3	Sex	Given name(s)	Last name	
			<input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"	
	Born (day month year)	Place	Baptized	
	Christened	Place	Endowed	
	Died	Place	Sealed to parents	
	Spouse Given name(s)	Last name		
	Married	Place	Sealed to spouse	
Select only one of the following options. The option you select applies to all names on this form.			Your name	
<input type="checkbox"/> Option 1—Family File Send all names to my family file at the _____ Temple.			Address	
<input type="checkbox"/> Option 2—Temple File Send all names to any temple, and assign proxies for all approved ordinances.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Option 3—Ancestral File Send all names to the computerized Ancestral File for research purposes only, not for ordinances. I am including the required pedigree chart.				
			Phone ()	Date prepared

Husband Given name(s)		Last name	
Wife Given name(s)		Maiden name	
Children List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth.			LDS ordinance dates
			Temple
4	Sex	Given name(s)	Last name <input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
	Born (day month year)	Place	Baptized
	Christened	Place	Endowed
	Died	Place	Sealed to parents
	Spouse Given name(s)	Last name	
	Married	Place	Sealed to spouse
5	Sex	Given name(s)	Last name <input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
	Born (day month year)	Place	Baptized
	Christened	Place	Endowed
	Died	Place	Sealed to parents
	Spouse Given name(s)	Last name	
	Married	Place	Sealed to spouse
6	Sex	Given name(s)	Last name <input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
	Born (day month year)	Place	Baptized
	Christened	Place	Endowed
	Died	Place	Sealed to parents
	Spouse Given name(s)	Last name	
	Married	Place	Sealed to spouse
7	Sex	Given name(s)	Last name <input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
	Born (day month year)	Place	Baptized
	Christened	Place	Endowed
	Died	Place	Sealed to parents
	Spouse Given name(s)	Last name	
	Married	Place	Sealed to spouse
Other marriages List other marriages and sealings of the husband, wife, and children on this form. List any necessary explanations.			
Sources of information Add further information on attached sheets as necessary.			

Note: Please take every reasonable step to see that the information on this form is as accurate and complete as practical. This will help maintain the integrity of Church family history files and reduce duplication of temple ordinance work.

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Other publications you will need:

Spanish Letter-Writing Guide (36245)
Genealogical Word List: Spanish (34104)

For Latter-day Saints:

Instructions for submitting names for temple ordinances.

Please send suggestions to:

Publications Coordination
 Family History Library
 35 N. West Temple St., Room 344
 Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3440 USA
 Fax: 1-801-240-5551

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